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FLOOR DEBATE

March 14, 2002      LB 1148

group, which we were invited to, which will be looking at sharing resources concerning public health emergencies. But I think this is an opportunity, while I am there, to visit with those people from Missouri and surrounding states on possible entering into a purchasing pool which Nebraska could become a part of. And when you start talking about six, eight, ten million people being involved in purchasing of drugs I believe that we can do a excellent job of negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to achieve the lowest cost possible along with that to cover that cost of administration. Those are just some of the things that we might explore. Also, we need to do a better job of educating our citizens. The average person on Medicaid is taking some nine medications per day. Many times, I think we need to look...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to bracket the bill until April 10, 2002.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your bracket motion to LB 1148.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to yield some of my time to Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, and thank you, Senator Chambers. I want to thank Senator Jensen and the committee for introducing this study. It's probably all we can do at this time, but I do have a bill in front of the committee that call for a senior drug program and I want to make sure that this...this study is results oriented, not just studying the problem. Currently, 31 states have some kind of senior drug program and they're starting to get waivers from federal government to get these paid for and, because of the national